

Appl. No. 10/782,989
Arndt. Dated April 6, 2006
Reply to Office Action of January 11, 2006

Docket No. IS01349TC
Customer No. 22917

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (currently amended) A method for notifying of an upcoming turn in a vehicle traveling along a route, comprising:
 - electronically generating a turn notification signal upon electronically determining that the vehicle is approaching a turn along the route; and
 - automatically illuminating at least one turn signal indicator associated with the vehicle in response to the turn notification signal, wherein the turn signal indicator comprises an indicator proximate to an instrument cluster on a dashboard of the vehicle, and wherein the turn signal indicator comprises a pair of indicators comprising a left turn indicator and a right turn indicator.
2. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein generating the turn notification signal comprises determining the location of the vehicle relative to the location of the turn.
3. (original) The method of claim 2, wherein determining the location of the vehicle comprises use of a Global Positioning System.
4. (original) The method of claim 2, wherein determining the location of the vehicle relative to the location of the turn comprises determining whether the location of the vehicle is within a certain distance of the turn.
5. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein generating the turn notification signal comprises use of a server in wireless communication with the vehicle.

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6. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein the turn signal indicator is independently activatable by a driver of the vehicle.
7. (original) The method of claim 6, wherein the turn signal indicator is independently activatable by the driver by manipulating a lever coupled to a steering column in the vehicle.
8. (original) The method of claim 1, further comprising audibly broadcasting an audible turn notification within the vehicle in response to the turn notification signal.
9. (original) The method of claim 8, wherein the audible turn notification comprises a voice specifying the nature of the upcoming turn.
10. (currently amended) The method of claim 8, wherein the audible turn notification emulates a sound produced upon manual engagement of a turn signal selector associated with the vehicle.
11. (original) The method of claim 1, further comprising allowing the driver to override the automatically illuminated turn signal indicator.
12. (original) The method of claim 1, further comprising disabling the illumination of the illuminated turn signal after the vehicle has passed the turn.
13. (original) The method of claim 1, further comprising illuminating a turn signal indicator which is external to the vehicle in response to the turn notification signal.

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14. (original) A method for notifying of an upcoming turn in a vehicle traveling along a route, comprising:
- electronically generating a turn notification signal upon electronically determining that the vehicle is approaching a turn along the route; and
 - automatically illuminating at least one turn signal indicator associated with the vehicle in response to the turn notification signal, wherein the turn signal indicator is external to the vehicle.
15. (original) The method of claim 14, wherein generating the turn notification signal comprises determining the location of the vehicle relative to the location of the turn.
16. (original) The method of claim 15, wherein determining the location of the vehicle comprises use of a Global Positioning System.
17. (original) The method of claim 15, wherein determining the location of the vehicle relative to the location of the turn comprises determining whether the location of the vehicle is within a certain distance of the turn.
18. (original) The method of claim 14, wherein generating the turn notification signal comprises use of a server in wireless communication with the vehicle.
19. (original) The method of claim 14, wherein the turn signal indicator is independently activatable by a driver of the vehicle.
20. (original) The method of claim 19, wherein the turn signal indicator is independently activatable by the driver by manipulating a lever coupled to a steering column in the vehicle.
21. (original) The method of claim 14, further comprising audibly broadcasting an audible turn notification within the vehicle in response to the turn notification signal.

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22. (original) The method of claim 21, wherein the audible turn notification comprises a voice specifying the nature of the upcoming turn.

23. (currently amended) The method of claim 21, wherein the audible turn notification emulates a sound produced upon manual engagement of a turn signal selector associated with the vehicle.

24. (original) The method of claim 14, further comprising allowing the driver to override the automatically illuminated turn signal indicator.

25. (original) The method of claim 14, further comprising disabling the illumination of the illuminated turn signal after the vehicle has passed the turn.

26. (original) The method of claim 14, wherein the at least one turn signal indicator is proximate to front and/or rear bumpers of the vehicle.

27. (original) The method of claim 14, wherein the turn signal indicator is proximate to a side view mirror.

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28. (currently amended) A method for notifying of an upcoming turn in a vehicle traveling along a route, comprising:

electronically generating a turn notification signal upon electronically determining that the vehicle is approaching a turn along the route; and automatically illuminating at least one turn signal indicator associated with the vehicle in response to the turn notification signal, wherein the turn signal indicator is independently manually activatable by a driver of the vehicle using a turn signal selector.

29. (original) The method of claim 28, wherein generating the turn notification signal comprises determining the location of the vehicle relative to the location of the turn.

30. (original) The method of claim 29, wherein determining the location of the vehicle comprises use of a Global Positioning System.

31. (original) The method of claim 29, wherein determining the location of the vehicle relative to the location of the turn comprises determining whether the location of the vehicle is within a certain distance of the turn.

32. (original) The method of claim 28, wherein generating the turn notification signal comprises use of a server in wireless communication with the vehicle.

33. (original) The method of claim 28, further comprising audibly broadcasting an audible turn notification within the vehicle in response to the turn notification signal.

34. (original) The method of claim 33, wherein the audible turn notification comprises a voice specifying the nature of the upcoming turn.

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35. (currently amended) The method of claim 33, wherein the audible turn notification emulates a sound produced upon ~~engagement~~ manual activation of a the turn signal selector ~~associated with the vehicle~~.

36. (original) The method of claim 28, further comprising allowing the driver to override the automatically illuminated turn signal indicator.

37. (original) The method of claim 28, further comprising disabling the illumination of the illuminated turn signal after the vehicle has passed the turn.

38. (original) The method of claim 28, wherein the at least one turn signal indicator is proximate to front and/or rear bumpers of the vehicle.

39. (original) The method of claim 28, wherein the turn signal indicator is proximate to a side view mirror.

40. (original) The method of claim 28, wherein the turn signal indicator is proximate to an instrument cluster on a dashboard of the vehicle

41. (original) The method of claim 28, wherein the turn signal selector comprises a lever.

42. (original) The method of claim 41, wherein the lever is coupled to a steering column.

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43. (currently amended) A method for notifying of an upcoming turn in a vehicle traveling along a route, comprising:

electronically generating a turn notification signal upon electronically determining that the vehicle is approaching a turn along the route; and automatically illuminating at least one turn signal indicator associated with the vehicle in response to the turn notification signal, wherein the turn signal indicator is substantially within the line of sight of a driver of the vehicle, and wherein the turn signal indicator is independently manually activatable by a driver of the vehicle using a turn signal selector.

44. (original) The method of claim 43, wherein generating the turn notification signal comprises determining the location of the vehicle relative to the location of the turn.

45. (original) The method of claim 44, wherein determining the location of the vehicle comprises use of a Global Positioning System.

46. (original) The method of claim 44, wherein determining the location of the vehicle relative to the location of the turn comprises determining whether the location of the vehicle is within a certain distance of the turn.

47. (original) The method of claim 43, wherein generating the turn notification signal comprises use of a server in wireless communication with the vehicle.

48. (original) The method of claim 43, further comprising audibly broadcasting an audible turn notification within the vehicle in response to the turn notification signal.

49. (original) The method of claim 48, wherein the audible turn notification comprises a voice specifying the nature of the upcoming turn.

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50. (original) The method of claim 43, further comprising allowing the driver to override the automatically illuminated turn signal indicator.

51. (original) The method of claim 43, further comprising disabling the illumination of the illuminated turn signal after the vehicle has passed the turn.

52. (original) The method of claim 43, wherein the at least one turn signal indicator is reflected from a windshield of a vehicle.

53. (currently amended) A system for notifying of an upcoming turn in a vehicle traveling along a route, comprising:

- a controller for receiving a command for issuing a turn notification signal, wherein the turn notification signal indicates that the vehicle is approaching a turn along the route; and

- at least one turn signal indicator for receiving the turn notification signal, wherein the turn signal indicator is automatically activated upon receipt of the turn notification signal, wherein the turn signal indicator is independently manually activatable by a driver of the vehicle using a turn signal selector, and wherein the turn signal indicator is at least one selected from the group consisting of:

- an indicator proximate to an instrument cluster on a dashboard of the vehicle,

- an indicator external to the vehicle, and

- an indicator reflected from a windshield of a vehicle.

54. (original) The system of claim 53, wherein the turn notification signal is generated by determining the location of the vehicle relative to the location of the turn.

55. (original) The system of claim 54, wherein determining the location of the vehicle comprises use of a Global Positioning System.

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56. (original) The system of claim 54, wherein determining the location of the vehicle relative to the location of the turn comprises determining whether the location of the vehicle is within a certain distance of the turn.

57. (currently amended) The system of claim 53, wherein the turn signal indicator comprises a pair of indicators comprising a left turn indicator and a right turn indicator ~~further comprising a turn signal selector for allowing a driver of the vehicle to independently activate the turn signal indicator.~~

58. (original) The system of claim 53, further comprising at least one speaker for audibly broadcasting an audible turn notification within the vehicle in response to the turn notification signal.

59. (original) The system of claim 58, wherein the audible turn notification comprises a voice specifying the nature of the upcoming turn.

60. (original) The system of claim 53, wherein the controller and the turn signal indicator are coupled through a vehicle bus.

61. (original) The system of claim 53, wherein the controller is directly coupled to the turn signal indicator through a dedicated path.

62. (original) The system of claim 53, wherein the external indicator is proximate at least one position selected from the group consisting of a hood of the vehicle, a bumper of the vehicle, a windshield of the vehicle, a side of the vehicle, and a hood ornament of the vehicle.

63-67. (cancelled)